

House File 273 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 273

BY MASCHER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act expanding the eligibility for the statewide preschool
2 program and including applicability provisions.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 135.173A, subsection 4, paragraph p,
2 Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

3 *p.* One person who is part of a local program implementing
4 the statewide preschool program for ~~four-year-old~~ young
5 children under chapter 256C.

6 Sec. 2. Section 135.173A, subsection 6, paragraph f, Code
7 2019, is amended to read as follows:

8 *f.* Make recommendations for improving collaborations
9 between the child care programs involving the department of
10 human services and programs supporting the education and
11 development of young children including but not limited to the
12 federal head start program; the statewide preschool program
13 for ~~four-year-old~~ young children; and the early childhood,
14 at-risk, and other early education programs administered by the
15 department of education.

16 Sec. 3. Section 256C.1, subsections 1 and 4, Code 2019, are
17 amended to read as follows:

18 1. "*Approved local program*" means a school district's
19 program for ~~four-year-old~~ young children approved by the
20 department of education to provide high quality preschool
21 instruction.

22 4. "*Preschool program*" means the statewide preschool program
23 for ~~four-year-old~~ young children created in accordance with
24 this chapter.

25 Sec. 4. Section 256C.1, Code 2019, is amended by adding the
26 following new subsection:

27 NEW SUBSECTION. 7. "*Young children*" means children who are
28 three or four years of age.

29 Sec. 5. Section 256C.2, Code 2019, is amended to read as
30 follows:

31 **256C.2 Statewide preschool program for ~~four-year-old~~ young**
32 **children — purpose.**

33 1. A statewide preschool program for ~~four-year-old~~ young
34 children is established. The purpose of the preschool program
35 is to provide an opportunity for all young children in the

1 state to enter school ready to learn by expanding voluntary
2 access to quality preschool curricula for all children who are
3 three or four years old.

4 2. The state board shall adopt rules in accordance with
5 chapter 17A as necessary to implement the preschool program as
6 provided in [this chapter](#).

7 Sec. 6. Section 256C.3, subsection 1, paragraphs a and b,
8 Code 2019, are amended to read as follows:

9 a. A child who is a resident of Iowa and is three or four
10 years of age on or before September 15 of a school year shall be
11 eligible to enroll in the preschool program under [this chapter](#).
12 If such a child is enrolled under [this chapter](#), the child shall
13 be considered to be of compulsory attendance age as provided in
14 section 299.1A, subsection 3.

15 b. If space and funding are available, including funding
16 from another school district account or fund from which
17 preschool program expenditures are authorized by law, a school
18 district approved to participate in the preschool program may
19 enroll and pay the cost of attendance for a child younger than
20 three years of age or older child in the preschool program than
21 four years of age; however, the child shall not be counted for
22 state funding purposes.

23 Sec. 7. Section 256C.3, subsection 4, paragraph b, Code
24 2019, is amended to read as follows:

25 b. Subject to implementation of [chapter 28E](#) agreements
26 between a school district and community-based providers of
27 services to three-year-old and four-year-old children, a
28 three-year-old or four-year-old child who is enrolled in
29 a child care center or child development home licensed or
30 registered under [chapter 237A](#), or in an existing public or
31 private preschool program, shall be eligible for services
32 provided by the school district's local preschool program.

33 Sec. 8. Section 256C.4, subsection 2, Code 2019, is amended
34 to read as follows:

35 2. *Eligible student enrollment.*

1 a. To be included as an eligible student in the enrollment
 2 count of the preschool programming provided by a school
 3 district approved to participate in the preschool program, a
 4 child must be three or four years of age by September 15 in the
 5 base year and attending the school district's approved local
 6 program.

7 b. The enrollment count of eligible students shall not
 8 include a child who is included in the enrollment count
 9 determined under [section 257.6](#) or a child who is served by
 10 a program already receiving state or federal funds for the
 11 purpose of the provision of three-year-old or four-year-old
 12 preschool programming while the child is being served by the
 13 program. Such preschool programming includes but is not
 14 limited to child development assistance programs provided under
 15 chapter 256A, special education programs provided under section
 16 256B.9, school ready children grant programs and other programs
 17 provided under [chapter 256I](#), and federal head start programs
 18 and the services funded by Tit. I of the federal Elementary and
 19 Secondary Education Act of 1965.

20 Sec. 9. Section 298A.2, subsection 2, paragraph a,
 21 subparagraph (1), Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

22 (1) An approved local program under the statewide preschool
 23 program for ~~four-year-old~~ young children under [chapter 256C](#).

24 Sec. 10. Section 298A.2, subsection 2, paragraph c,
 25 subparagraph (1), Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

26 (1) Start-up costs for an approved local program under the
 27 statewide preschool program for ~~four-year-old~~ young children
 28 under [chapter 256C](#).

29 Sec. 11. Section 299.1A, subsection 3, Code 2019, is amended
 30 to read as follows:

31 3. A child who has reached the age of ~~four~~ three by
 32 September 15 and who is enrolled in the statewide preschool
 33 program under [chapter 256C](#) shall be considered to be of
 34 compulsory attendance age unless the parent or guardian
 35 of the child submits written notice to the school district

1 implementing the program of the parent's or guardian's intent
2 to remove the child from enrollment in the preschool program.

3 Sec. 12. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to school budget
4 years beginning on or after July 1, 2020.

5 EXPLANATION

6 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
7 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

8 This bill expands the statewide preschool program for
9 four-year-old children under Code chapter 256C to also include
10 three-year-old children. The program is administered by local
11 school districts subject to rules adopted by the state board of
12 education and receives funding through the school aid formula.

13 References to four-year-old children in the program named in
14 Code chapter 256C and in related Code provisions are changed to
15 "young children" or expanded to also refer to three-year-old
16 children.

17 The bill applies to school budget years beginning on or after
18 July 1, 2020.